

Application No.: 09/961091

Case No.: 54404US008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

36. (Currently Amended) A medical treatment article comprising:
at least one fluid control film component having at least one microstructure-bearing surface with a plurality of microreplicated channels that extends along the surface and permits transport of fluid between a medical treatment site on a patient or user and a remote area.
37. (Original) The article of claim 36 wherein the article is a wound dressing, wound drain, tympanostomy fluid wick, intravenous access site dressing, drug delivery dressing, surgical drape, or sweat collection patch.
38. (Original) The article of claim 36 wherein the remote area comprises a fluid reservoir.
39. (Original) The article of claim 36 wherein the channels have a cross-sectional geometry comprising V-shaped channels, rectangular-shaped channels, or a combination V- and rectangular-shaped channels.
40. (Original) The article of claim 36 wherein the fluid control film component comprises a plurality of primary channels having at least two secondary channels, each of the secondary channels forming at least one notch, wherein the primary channels have a depth of from 50 to 3000 microns and the depth of the secondary channels is from 5 to 50 percent of the depth of the primary channels.
41. (Original) The article of claim 36 wherein the channels have an included angle between about 10 degrees and about 120 degrees.

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42. (Original) The article of claim 36 wherein the channels are between about 5 and about 3000 microns deep.

43. (Original) The article of claim 36 wherein the channels comprise a thermoplastic material selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters, polyamides, poly(vinyl chloride), polyether esters, polyimides, polyesteramides, polyurethanes, polyacrylates, polyvinylacetate, hydrolyzed derivatives of polyvinyl acetate and combinations thereof.

44. (Original) The article of claim 36 wherein the channels comprise a thermoset material selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes, acrylates, epoxies and silicones.

45. (Original) The article of claim 36 wherein the channels comprise a pressure sensitive adhesive material.

46. (Original) The article of claim 36 wherein the article is a combined wound dressing and wound drain, and the fluid control film component is adapted to be inserted into the medical treatment site.

47. (Currently Amended) The article of claim ~~36~~ 38 wherein the fluid control film component is adapted to supply a medicament from the fluid reservoir to the medical treatment site.

48. (Original) The article of claim 36 further comprising a backing layer positioned to overlie the fluid control film component and the remote area:

wherein the backing layer comprises an adhesive to adhere the article in position for fluid transfer communication with the medical treatment site.

49. (Original) The article of claim 36 wherein the article is adapted for visual observation of the site through at least a portion of the fluid control film component.

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50. (Original) The article of claim 49 wherein the fluid control film component is at least translucent.

51. (Currently Amended) A method of using a medical article comprising at least one fluid control film component having at least one microstructure-bearing surface with a plurality of microreplicated channels that extends along the surface and permits transport of fluid between a medical treatment site on a patient or user and a remote area, the method comprising:

placing the medical article in proximity to the medical treatment site so that the fluid control film component is capable of providing fluid communication between the medical treatment site and the remote area; and

allowing the medical treatment article to transport fluid between the medical treatment site and the remote area.

52. (Original) The method of claim 51 wherein fluid is transported from the medical treatment site to the remote area.

53. (Original) The method of claim 52 wherein the remote area comprises a fluid reservoir.

54. (Original) The method of claim 53 wherein the fluid reservoir comprises an absorbent material.

55. (Original) The method of claim 51 wherein fluid is transported from the remote area to the medical treatment site.

56. (Original) The method of claim 52 wherein the fluid comprises a medicament.

57. (Original) The method of claim 56 wherein the medicament comprises an antimicrobial, an antiseptic, an analgesic, a vitamin, a steroid, a growth factor, a nutrient, a flushing solution, or any combination of any of the foregoing.

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58. (Original) The method of claim 51 wherein fluid is transported from the medical treatment site to the remote area and from the remote area to the medical treatment site.

59. (Original) The method of claim 51 further comprising visually observing the medical treatment site.

60. (Original) The method of claim 59 wherein at least a portion of the medical treatment article is transparent and the step of visually observing the medical treatment article comprises visually observing the medical treatment site through the transparent portion of the medical treatment article.